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U.S. Dept. of Transportation Dockets, Docket No. FAA-98-4390  
400 Seventh ST., S.W. Room Plaza 401  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: FAA NPRM 63 Fed Reg. 46834; Flight Plan Requirements for Helicopter  
Operations under Instrument Flight Rules.

To the FAA Administrator

I have been a professional helicopter pilot for more than seventeen years. This NPRM recognizes the unique capabilities of the helicopter in addition to the enhanced safety of flying IFR. Accident statistics have shown that flying IFR has many safety advantages over flying marginal VFR. This rule would allow helicopters which previously would have been forced to fly in marginal VFR conditions to operate under the enhanced safety of Instrument Flight Rules.

I applaud the FAA for recognizing that encouraging pilots to file IFR flight plans, and work within Instrument Flight Regulations will be a great step forward in enhancing safety of flight.

Very truly yours,



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